

THE CIPHER TELEGRAMS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PASSES MR. POTTER'S RESOLUTION WITHOUT A DIVISION—THE

DEMOCRATS CUT OFF ANY LONG DEBATE. In the House of Representatives yesterday, Potter presented a resolution for an investigation of the cipher telegrams translated THE NEW-YORK TRIBUNE. General Butler used the motion, on account of the scandal of such an investigation, and because the privacy of telegrams should be observed. Mr. Conger and Hale made cutting speeches; and Mr. Crittenden defended Mr. Tilden. The Republicans wanted to prolong the time, but the mo-

was voted down, and debate was cut off on the previous question. The resolution was adopted by a vote of 10-1.

ONLY AN HOUR OF DISCUSSION.
POTTER AND MR. HEWITT ON THE DEFENSIVE
THE REPUBLICANS DO NOT OPPOSE THE RESOLUTION—GENERAL RETIRED.
[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE EDITOR.]
WASHINGTON, Jan. 21.—The epier dispatch in-
gination was ordered by the House of Represen-
tatives to-day. To vote for the resolution which Mr.
er reported from his committee was to most of
Democrats like eating a large dish of crow; but
swallowed it with very faces, insisting that the
I should not be unnecessarily prolonged.
c. Potter took pains to wash his hands of all
vital responsibility for setting this inquiry on
. He said that he reported the resolution sim-
because he was instructed to do so by his Com-

ee, and so far from showing any reason why it
uld be passed, he devoted a great part of his
sk to explaining why he did not, and would

undoubtedly we called the attention of the
se to this unwelcome subject. Among
the reasons were his preference that
inquiry, if made at all, should be
referred to some other committee, the misrepresentation to which he said he had been subjected on
account of his connection with the committee, and
personal motives growing out of his relations with
Tilden. Mr. Potter's speech was an honest one,
he did not pretend that the inquiry upon which he
had entered was a pleasant one, or that he ex-
pected his party to be benefited in any way by it.
He did not pretend that his day-to-day was any-
thing except unpleasant, but he did it bravely
and without exciting in his hearers a feeling of
pity for him in his affliction.

Mr. Potter's explanation of the way in which he
came to have anything to do with the investi-
gation that has taken his name was an interesting
contribution to the political history of the times,
and he took the place reluctantly on the invita-
tion of the committee of the joint Democratic cam-
paign and held no communication with Mr. Tilden
thereafter. Mr. Potter also appeared to every-

who knew anything about the investigation to
ify that he had conducted it with the greatest
There are small elements but his com-

He has done one thing, against his judgment in this, to be sure, that cannot be as easily deleted.

His speech that had been most advertised, and which hundreds of people who filled the galleries went to the House to hear today, was that of oral Butler in opposition to the resolution. The oral began by saying that he had neither enemies to reward nor enemies to punish in this vote, and then went on to make what seemed rather strange coming from him—pleas for the insolvability of the letters, matches and actions of private individuals. If matches should disclose crimes against the laws, said, those guilty of them can be punished without the aid of the law, and of the courts.

disclose crimes, then Congress can make no post facto law to declare the acts to be

To punish the vindictive House for its business of Congress, The Times had no right, in opinion, to spend the public money for any such cause. General Butler did not attempt to defend either Butler or his agents for the acts disclosed by his dispatches, but rather to leave the investigation to the public. He left nothing to be said, and he was probably right. The worse condition things are in now are, he opposed to spreading these scandals in the record; it would be better to leave as the emanations of a sensational press. The result that could flow from an investigation, he said, would be to stir up something that had not been seen, felt or smelled. "Give this \$10,000 to one poor woman," he said.

Two fragmentary sentences give a fair idea of what General Butler's speech. It was not long, either in argument or in language, and even his seeming threat that both parties would be tried by the inquiry, was almost without effect. In General Butler's world-wide reputation, ability to make the worse appear the better side, speech to-day was a disappointment to those who heard it. One little posse of news General

may be responsible for the publication of the cipher matches, and that no copies of those in his

He had been made made by the crowd, and they were in his hands. His closing remark that "he is one man who is in such a position as not to be influenced by any party considerations" was received with great laughter on both sides of the aisle.

He most striking part of the speech of Mr. Hale, took the floor next, was his sarcastic description of the simple old man of Granerrey Park, edged from his privacy by his over-zealous aids, forced into the candidacy for Presidency against his will, taking part in the campaign, and after

voting was over, waiting quietly in his
 et for the result to be announced. It was the
 of its kind that has been heard in the House

any day. Nothing short of a valuation re-
of it could do it justice.

Conyer kept the Republican side of the House
longer for a few minutes with his
remarks; but the Democrats did not seem
upon them. He was cut off in the midst of his
by the expiration of his time, and closed by
ing: "On another occasion I will continue these
sars." This was said in such a provoking and
leal way that it was amusing.

Hewitt appeared not only as the defender of
Democratic party and its organization,
which he was the head in 1876, but also,
to the surprise of everybody, of Mr.
himself. He announced, as he said, on
arity, that the others were sent and re-
led without consultation with or the
wledge of the Democratic candidate for the
sidency. After making this announcement,
Hewitt went on to argue the question and to
to have notes

could not be reasonable to suppose that the bar-
row would have failed for want of money, as the
statements disclosed by the cipher dispatches

to this point for any done.

At this point Mr. Marshall Townsend interrupted the speaker, and said to another member, "don't go to now-an-inquiry which Mr. Hewitt did not stop to answer."

Such was Mr. Hewitt's speech was devoted to accusations that the Republicans got the Presidency by fraud, and that they have not only taken every means in their power to cover that fraud up by buying the agents through which it was committed, but also exception officers under the same name, and by the same means, to fraud upon Mr. Ten and the Democrats. This part of the speech lasted very much like some hands on the same job last session, and lacked, therefore, the element of fresh.

When Mr. Hewitt closed, General Garfield made a hasty and fragmentary move to extend the debate; but the democrats, after two roll-calls, occupying more than an hour, put a stop to this, and the Potter

s heard to vote in the negative, and perhaps
 re were one or two others who followed his lead,